EPI Update for Friday, December 9, 2011 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Influenza activity update
- Study finds inadequate use of masks among health care workers early in 2009 H1N1 outbreak
- Join the discussion to prevent youth addiction
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Influenza activity update

Influenza activity in Iowa remains sporadic. The CDC indicates the seasonal influenza viruses characterized so far this year are well-matched to the viruses in the 2011-2012 influenza vaccine. Influenza activity typically increases just after the holiday season, so please continue to emphasize with patients that it is not too late to get vaccinated.

For more information on influenza, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx.

Study finds inadequate use of masks among health care workers early in 2009 H1N1 outbreak

A study published in the December issue of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* highlighted the importance of wearing personal protective equipment when treating patients with influenza-like illness. The study tracked 63 southern California health care workers who had contact with six of the first eight laboratory-confirmed 2009 H1N1 cases in the U.S. Of that group, 43 workers reported never using a mask around patients; nine of them became infected with the 2009 H1N1 virus, likely from contact with infected patients. Twenty workers reported they had worn a mask or respirator at least once when in contact with patients; no one from that group became infected with 2009 H1N1.

To access an abstract of the study visit www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22080652

Join the discussion to prevent youth addiction

Health care providers, parents, educators and others have a new tool for protecting the health of lowa's youth. The recently launched Prevent lowa Youth Addiction Facebook page addresses some new (and not-so-new) dangers facing lowa's youth. During the initial launch of this page, there is a special emphasis on new products the tobacco industry is test marketing. Called "dissolvables," these smokeless tobacco products closely resemble mints, toothpicks and even breath strips. Some of these items are already being sold in lowa alongside other products you may have seen, including snus and e-cigarettes. This development is particularly dangerous to children in terms of addiction, nicotine poisoning, school performance and future tobacco use. To learn more, visit www.facebook.com/preventiowayouthaddiction.

Meeting announcements and training opportunitiesNone

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

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